

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Canceled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A human prostate cancer-associated neuroendocrine (NE)-like cell line ~~of claim 1~~, NE-1-3, deposited at ATCC under accession number PTA-3568.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A human prostate cancer-associated neuroendocrine (NE)-like cell line ~~of claim 1~~, NE-1-8, deposited at ATCC under accession number PTA-3569.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A method for obtaining a NE-like cell line from prostate cells wherein said cell line is cultured under conditions of hormone deprivation, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) seeding hormone-responsive human prostate cells in culture for a suitable time period to allow said cells to undergo at least one round of cell division;
 - b) contacting said cells with a hormone-reduced medium;
 - c) propagating said cells in said hormone-reduced medium;
- and
- d) isolating subclone NE-like cell populations that survive in said hormone-reduced medium.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn): A method for identifying agents which modulate biomarker expression in NE-like subclone cells, comprising the steps of:

- a) contacting said NE-like subclone cells with agents suspected of modulating biomarker expression in said NE-like subclone cells; and

b) assaying biomarker expression levels in said NE-like subclone cells.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 6, wherein said biomarkers are selected from the group consisting of NSE, NT, AR, PSA, EGFR, ErbB-2, ErbB-3, RPTP α , ERK1, ERK2 and MEK.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 6, wherein said NE-like subclone cells are selected from the group consisting of NE-1-3, NE-1-8 and NE-1-9.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 6, where said NE-like subclone cells are NE-1-3 cells.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 6, wherein said NE-like subclone cells are NE-1-8 cells.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 6, wherein said NE-like subclone cells are NE-1-9 cells.